GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE. BULLETIN NO. 5 OF 1943.

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Evening Papers .. 27th October, 1943.
Morning Papers .. 28th October, 1943.

RETAIL PRICES - SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1943.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index Numbers for September quarter, 1943 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1074; Toowoomba 1078; Rockhampton 1074; Townsville 1114; Bundaberg 1058; and Warwick 1059.

The above figures show the following percentage increases or decreases as compared with the dates shown.

City	September Quarter, 1943 - Percentage Increase or Decrease Compared With		
	Year Ended June, 1939	September Quarter, 1942	June Quarter, 1943
Brisbane	24.45	2.87	-0.83
Toowoomba	26.67	3.36	-1.01
Rockhampton	24.74	3.77	-1.10
Townsville	22.15	3.05	-0.89
Bundaberg	25.80	3.62	-0.94
Warwick	28.83	4.13	-0.47

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc. have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City	Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on June Qr. 1943	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on June Qr. 1943	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on June Qr. 1943
Brisbane ..	13.08	-3.01	72.93	0.07	19.24	0.71
Toowoomba ..	17.44	-3.34	74.55	0.28	18.92	-0.09
Rockhampton ..	10.06	-3.24	75.38	-0.14	20.58	0.17
Townsville ..	7.96	-2.37	75.36	-0.47	18.76	0.00
Bundaberg ..	13.40	-3.03	73.06	0.14	17.26	0.09
Warwick ..	13.83	-2.03	70.35	0.84	21.46	0.08

Food and Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for September quarter, 1943 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 925, Toowoomba 916, Rockhampton 898, Townsville 964, Bundaberg 883, Warwick 870.

From June quarter, 1943 to September quarter, 1943, this index has decreased by the following percentages - Brisbane 1.81, Toowoomba 2.14, Rockhampton 2.18, Townsville 1.53, Bundaberg 2.11, Warwick 1.36.

Rents in Rockhampton and Bundaberg rose by 0.13 and 0.15 per cent. respectively but remained stationary in the four other towns. The Food and Grocery Index declined in all towns, mainly due to the decreased price of tea and potatoes.

Compared with September quarter, 1942 the combined Food and Rent Index increased in Bundaberg (0.46%) and Warwick (0.81%) but decreased in Brisbane (1.07%), Toowoomba (0.33%), Townsville (1.53%), whilst Rockhampton remained stationary.

The Food and Groceries Index declined in all five towns but Rents rose in Rockhampton (0.26%), Bundaberg (2.77%) and Warwick (2.96%), and remained stationary in Brisbane, Toowoomba and Townsville.

Compared with the Index for 1938-39 the "B" series index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 8.57, Toowoomba 11.57, Rockhampton 7.29, Townsville 5.24, Bundaberg 0.51, and Warwick 13.28.

Rents rose in all towns, the percentage increases being Brisbane 1.41, Toowoomba 2.63, Rockhampton 2.26, Townsville 0.58, Bundaberg 4.21, and Warwick 12.31.

Increases were also recorded in all towns for Food and Groceries compared with 1938-39; the percentage changes are shown in the second table on the previous page.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in September quarter, 1943, to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City	All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba	1. 0. 1	19. 9	19.11	1. 0. 2
Rockhampton	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 4	17.10	1. 0. 8
Townsville	1. 0. 9	1. 1. 4	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 7
Bundaberg	19. 8	1. 1. 2	15. 6	1. 0. 3
Warwick	19. 9	19.11	16.11	1. 0. 2

Comparison of Commonwealth and State's Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State	METROPOLITAN				STATE AVERAGES c.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Queensland	1074	4.17. 0	4.17. 0a	-	1076	-	4.17. 8	-
N.S.W.	1154	5. 4. 3	4.19. 0a	5. 3	1151	5. 4. 6	4.19. 0	5. 6
Victoria	1139	5. 2.10	4.18. 0b	4.10	1136	5. 3. 1	4.17.10	5. 3
South Aust.	1106	4.19.11	4.14. 0a	5.11	1101	4.19.11	4.14. 0	5.11
West.Aust.	1110	5. 0. 3	5. 1. 1a	-0.10	1118	5. 1. 6	5. 1. 6	-
Tasmania	1125	5. 1. 7	4.15. 0b	6. 7	1108	5. 0. 8	4.14. 0	6. 8

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Commonwealth Basic Wage, applicable from first pay of period of November, 1943. This rate is generally followed in State Awards in these States.

c. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals.)

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending Sept. 1943	QUARTERS ENDING Sept. 1942	Decr. 1942	March 1943	June 1943	Sept. 1943
Brisbane ..	917	863	1069	1044	1055	1063	1083	1074
Toowoomba ..	906	851	1073	1043	1056	1068	1089	1078
Rockhampton ..	903	861	1068	1035	1052	1059	1086	1074
Townsville ..	1023	912	1110	1081	1098	1103	1124	1114
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	1053	1021	1038	1047	1068	1058
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) ..	915	864	1071	1045	1057	1066	1086	1076
Warwick ..	914	822	1048	1017	1029	1040	1064	1059

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 2.

FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals.)

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending Sept. 1943	QUARTERS ENDING Sept. 1942	Decr. 1942	March 1943	June 1943	Sept. 1943
Brisbane ..	901	852	933	935	930	934	942	925
Toowoomba ..	833	821	921	919	910	923	936	916
Rockhampton ..	858	837	904	898	900	901	918	898
Townsville ..	1047	916	974	979	978	974	979	964
Bundaberg ..	(b)	799	889	879	880	889	902	883
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) ..	892	851	931	932	928	932	941	924
Warwick ..	841	768	868	863	857	864	882	870

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 3.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ending June 1939	MONTH OF June 1943	MONTH OF Sept. 1943	Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ending June 1939	MONTH OF June 1943	MONTH OF Sept. 1943
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Oats - flaked .. 1 lb.	3.57	3.68	3.68
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.05	4.05	Milk .. 1 qt.	6.00	7.00	7.10
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	40.73	27.05	Beef - Sirloin Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	12.00	12.00
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.98	Beef - Steak Rump .. 1 lb.	11.34	16.90	16.90
Jam (Plum) .. 1½ lb.	8.02	10.28	10.51	Beef - Steak Chuck .. 1 lb.	5.83	7.75	7.75
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	12.09	12.20	Beef - Rolled Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	7.60	7.65
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	18.59	8.41	Mutton - leg .. 1 lb.	7.75	8.00	8.40
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	2.98	2.98	Mutton - chops Loin .. 1 lb.	7.78	8.15	8.45
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	7.00	7.00				
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.91	19.91				
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	14.95	14.95				
Eggs .. 1doz.	19.69	26.82	22.00				

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,
BRISBANE.

26th October, 1943.